

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for driving a display panel, in which a common electrode and a discrete electrode are connected to one of plural display cells arranged in a matrix form, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) supplying said common electrode with a reset pulse opposite in polarity to a display pulse, the reset pulse for inversion of charges stored on said common electrode;
- (b) supplying said common electrode with a first single-step pulse of the same polarity as said display pulse;
- (c) applying said display pulse to the common electrode; and
- (d) applying a control voltage to said discrete electrode to thereby control a gaseous discharge in said one of plural display cells.

Claim 2 (Original): The display panel driving method according to claim 1, wherein said step (b) is performed twice in succession.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The display panel driving method according to claim 1, wherein the duration of said reset pulse is equal to or smaller than 5 μ s.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The display panel driving method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises supplying a second single-step pulse, of the same polarity as said display pulse, to the common electrode within 1 μ s after the rise of first single-step pulse.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A method for driving a display panel, in which a common electrode and a discrete electrode are connected to one of plural display cells arranged in a matrix form, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a display pulse to the common electrode ;
applying a control voltage to the discrete electrode to thereby control a gaseous discharge in said one of plural display cells; and
transferring data, for controlling a period of the gaseous discharge in said one of plural display cells, to a drive circuit of the discrete electrode substantially when no voltage is applied to the common electrode.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The display panel driving method according to claim 5, wherein a voltage of the display pulse rises in two steps, and the application of the control voltage to the discrete electrode is started following the rise of a first-step voltage and preceding the rise of a second-step voltage.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method for driving a display panel, in which a common electrode and a discrete electrode are connected to one of plural display cells arranged in a matrix form, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) applying an initialization sequence voltage to the common electrode;
(b) applying a stabilization sequence in which at least one display pulse is applied to the common electrode to perform a stabilizing gaseous discharge of said display cell each of said plural display cells; and
(c) controlling a period of the gaseous discharge in said one of plural display cells by controlling a period in which to apply said display pulse to the common electrode and in which to apply a discharge suppression pulse to the discrete electrode.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The display panel driving method according to claim 7, wherein a stabilization period in which not to apply voltages to both of the common electrode and the discrete electrode of said each of said plural display cells is set between at least one of the steps (a) and (b) and the steps (b) and (c).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method for driving a display panel, in which a common electrode and a discrete electrode are connected to one of plural display cells arranged in a matrix form, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) removing charges that trigger an unintended discharge of the one of plural display cells during a stabilization period in which voltages are not applied to either the common electrode or the discrete electrode;

(b) applying a display pulse to the common electrode to perform a gaseous discharge of said display cell; and

(c) controlling a period of the gaseous discharge in said one of plural display cells by controlling a period in which to apply said display pulse to the common electrode and in which to apply a discharge suppression pulse to the discrete electrode.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The display panel driving method according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of a first duration, from a termination of said display pulse to a start of said reset pulse, to a second duration, of said reset pulse, is approximately 3:1.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The display panel driving method according to Claim 4, wherein in step (b), the second single-step pulse falls within 1 μ s after a falling of the first single-step pulse.